

Words
www.aubeacon.com

Introduction: We live in a time where all standards are being rejected for the subjective.

A. There is nothing new seeing men throw away God's foundation to serve themselves.

(Ps 11:3; Jer 2:11-13)

1. Some quickly cast aside "traditional" teachings without serious examination.

Others react emotionally to *bad experiences with a few brethren*. **(Rom 3:4)**

2. We must take the question of *how we read and view the Bible* very seriously.

3. God has shown us plainly how to find and know His will for us. **(Rom 12:2)**

B. There are a large number of brethren questioning things that once were universally accepted.

1. Seeking to test all things is good as long as there is a sincere desire to find God's truth. **(1 Thess 5:21; Acts 17:11)**

2. There are some who raise questions with no desire to find answers. Their goal is to *create doubt* so they can seek worldly goals. **(Mt 11:18-19)**

3. Everyone who has doubts *should ask questions* so that God's will can be known!

I. God has chosen to communicate His will by delivering words

A. God delivered words at different times in the Old Testament that men were expected to understand and obey.

1. The Ten Commandments were *words* written on stone.

2. God delivered *words* to the prophets that were to be handled very differently than the words of men. **(Deut 4:4-5, 10; Jer 1:9-10)**

3. There were things that were inherently true about these *words because they came from God*. **(2 Sam 22:31)**

B. God chose to deliver words through Jesus who, in turn, would deliver them to us through the apostles and prophets. Jesus showed us how to handle these words!

1. Jesus would *only do* those things that He saw the Father do. Without instruction *He would do nothing!* **(Jn 5:19-20, 30)**

2. Jesus wanted His followers to understand authority and to follow the Father just like He did. He wanted others to test doctrine! **(Jn 7:16-17)**

3. The respect for the words of God would lead Jesus *only to act* when the Father gives Him instruction. This stand would lead Jesus to the cross and us to be free from sin! **(Jn 8:28-32; 12:32-33)**

4. Jesus showed how we must empty ourselves and follow Him. When we do as Jesus did then we will *honor the Father*. **(Jn 12:25-28)**

5. This same attitude was to *be expected of all us* whom this precious word would be delivered! **(Jn 12:48-50)**

6. This carefully delivered message *would not be added to* by Jesus, the Holy Spirit or the Apostles as it was delivered! **(Jn 16:12-13; 17:6-8; Eph 3:3-5)**

7. The words delivered from God are together perfect. We glorify God by simply allowing all that we teach and practice be authorized by these words. **(1 Pt 4:11)**

II. We must use reason to apply these words to our lives

- A. Without reason we would be unable to draw *any conclusions* to the identity of Christ, our need of salvation and what I needed to do to be saved. **(Acts 26:25)**
1. Jesus expected others to draw necessary conclusions from His miracles. **(Jn 10:24-25; 37-38; 9:32-33)**
 2. The New Testament is not given in the form of a law but *law is found within it*. It is impossible to apply the Bible as binding anything to all men without applying reason.
 3. Because God used words to reveal His will then *we must understand* that these words will: 1. ***Tell us something*** (direct statement or command) 2. ***Show us something*** (example) 3. ***Imply something*** (we draw conclusions).
 4. When you reject any of these principles you have *rejected the use of words*. The Bible *cannot be* your source of teaching and practice.
 5. Many who reject “CENI” have turned to a direct operation of the Holy Spirit as a guide. The writings of Francis Chan and others are used to influence others.
- B. How should we react to those who bind human laws and employ false reasoning?
1. Some have reacted to abusive teachers and bad experiences from those who claim to reason but in fact use raw force to enslave others to their self-made rules! **(1 Tim 6:3-4; 3 Jn 9-11)**
 2. Some become like the very teachers that hurt them! Watch out when you begin to make sweeping conclusions about brethren and being to spread a spirit of bitterness and pride. **(James 3:13-18)**
 3. We respond to false reasoning by correct reasoning. We must never abandon reason!
 4. One crucial element of Christian growth is the ability to develop reason to apply God’s word to our lives. **(Heb 5:12-14)**
 5. Satan has always sought the same false teaching in each generation. He has been successful when he changes the name of that which is false. **(Isa 5:20-21)**
 6. Often a new generation has no understanding of basic principles and how to apply them and are easy prey to abandon the apostle’s doctrine.

Questions

1. What should we do when we have doubts as to what has been the common practices of churches? What happens when we run from our doubts and bury them?
2. What are the benefits of having a confirmed message from God that is written?
3. Can we conclude that the full written revelation from God is complete?
4. How did Jesus handle the words given Him from the Father?
5. Did Jesus or the Holy Spirit teach any doctrine of themselves? What conclusion should we draw from these examples concerning these same words delivered to us?
6. What three ways does all language teach us?
7. Is it possible to apply God’s word to our lives without reason?
8. How should we react to teachers who use false reason to bind human rules?